

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION # 13

Supervisory Responsibilities for Handling a Notice of Recurrence (CA-2a) Claim



DEFINITIONS:

- **Recurrence of disability** – Work stoppage caused by:
 - A spontaneous return of symptoms from a previous injury or occupational disease with no intervening cause;
 - A return or increase of a disability due to a consequential injury (which was a result of the weakness/impairment caused by the previous injury); OR
 - Withdrawal of a specific light duty assignment (or position reassignment) at a time when the employee is unable to perform the full duties of his regular position. This withdrawal must have occurred for reasons other than misconduct, non-performance of job duties, or an organizational action that also impacts those who are performing full duty positions (i.e. RIF, closure of facility.)
- **Recurrence of medical condition** – is the documented need for additional medical treatment after being released from treatment for the work-related injury. Continuing treatment is not a recurrence.

KEY POINTS:

- **Entitlement to Continuation of Pay (COP):**
 - Employee is not entitled to COP for an occupational disease claim.
 - If the original injury was a traumatic injury, the employee will only be entitled to COP if the Notice of Recurrence is filed within the 90 days of RTW and the employee has not exhausted the allotted COP days. [See FAQ #15.](#)
 - If the recurrence is for an occupational disease or the 45-day COP entitlement for traumatic injury has expired, instruct the employee to file a CA-7, Claim for Compensation, for any wage loss.
- **Authorization for Medical Examination and/or Treatment (CA-16):**
 - You cannot issue a CA-16 for an occupational disease.
 - If the original injury was a traumatic injury, and the recurrence is less than 90 days after the employee returned to work following the original injury, a CA-16 can be provided to the employee following issuance guidelines. [See FAQ #11.](#)
- **Evidence Required from Employee:**
 - The level of evidence required if the recurrence is within 90 days of the original injury is the same as required when submitting the original CA-1 or CA-2, except the employee's physician must provide an opinion, with medical reasons, regarding the causal relationship between the recurrence of the condition and the original injury.
 - If the recurrence occurs more than 90 days after the original injury, the employee must provide **substantial** evidence that the recurrence of disability for work is directly related to the original injury.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Complete Section B of the CA-2a form. (The ARC WC Specialist will complete the blocks for the OWCP and OSHA Codes on page 2.) Refer to other instructions as needed:
 - [See FAQ #11](#) – CA-1, Notice of Traumatic Injury Claim
 - [See FAQ #12](#) – CA-2, Notice of Occupational Disease Claims
 - [See FAQ #14](#) – CA-7, Claim for Compensation
 - [See FAQ #15](#) – Continuation of Pay (COP)

2. Submit the documentation to the ARC Workers' Compensation Specialist in a timely fashion.
NOTE: This information must be submitted within ten working days to the DOL.

Questions? Contact the ARC WC Specialist at (304) 480-8229
or email questions to [**WorkersComp@bpd.treas.gov**](mailto:WorkersComp@bpd.treas.gov)